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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop **PCT**  
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Sir:

Prior to examining the above-identified U.S. national phase application of International patent application No. PCT/US2004/003605, filed 5 February 2004, which was published as WO 2004/071339 on 26 August 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendment to the Specification** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.